MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The Chief Engineer.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): In this particular case, why was the amount provided in the budget allowed to lapse without the preparation of the estimate, although the work had been sanctioned?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Because, all the conditions necessary for carrying out the work had not been satisfied.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): The only reason given in the answer is that the estimate had not been prepared. Why was there so much delay in the preparation of the estimate?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): May I refer the member to part (*b*) of the answer where it is stated :—

"The Revenue Department is arranging to get written statements from the people willing to surrender the lands free of compensation for the road and also to take steps to evict encroachments."

It is only after the eviction of encroachments that we can know how much land would be required for the road. It is only then that a proper estimate can be prepared.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): Is that the reason why the estimate was not prepared?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

Wet lands in the Valiakulam ela.

114. MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state the number of acres of wet lands in the Valiakulam *ela*?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is reported by the Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner that there is no *ela* by the name "Valiakulam Ela," but that there is a tank by name Valiakulam in the Eraniel pakuthi, Kalkulam taluk. This Valiakulam lies contiguous to another tank called Putukulam, and these two tanks together have under them an *ayacut* area of 58 acres and 80 cents of wet lands.

Mr. Hilkiah's taking part in the last general election to the Legislative Council.

115. MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether Mr. Hilkiah, Medical Officer in the District Hospital, Tuckalai, took a keen interest in the last general election to the Legislative Council; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the action taken by them thereon?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The Government are not aware of it.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), this does not arise.

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